

Who wants to revise the present Act?



People from all walks of life: Democrats, Republicans, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, veteran's groups, Negro organizations — the list is almost endless. President Eisenhower is opposed to the Act, as are former President Truman and Adlai Stevenson, and others, including:

American Federation of Labor
Congress of Industrial Organizations
National Council of Churches of Christ
National Catholic Welfare Conference
Synagogue Council of America
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

There are people who honestly believe that the McCarran Act is pretty good and should remain on the statute books without revision, but most of these people are not familiar with the booby-traps hidden in the Act.

But there is one group that would like even more booby-traps in the McCarran Act — the small "lunatic fringe" of American fascists, Ku Kluxers, racists and self-styled super-patriots who do not want the U. S. to adopt a decent immigration policy. Their stock in trade is hatred of foreigners, white supremacy, anti-Semitism and anti-Catholicism. They don't want any immigration at all; in fact, if they had their way, they'd deport everyone but their own tiny minority.

Then there is the Communist Party, which, though it claims to be against the McCarran Act, really loves it. This law is too good a propaganda weapon for Russia and its agents to lose. Every day Radio Moscow hammers away at the theme that this law discriminates against Negroes and Orientals in favor of Europeans, and against certain nationalities in Europe in favor of others. Russia's own gates have long been closed; she refuses to admit foreigners or release natives. That is the

kind of policy we expect of a ruthless dictatorship. But can America, the world's leading democracy, afford such discriminatory practices? Can we expect to win friends and allies among the free nations of the world when we discriminate against their peoples?



What can be done?

This law doesn't merely hurt immigrants and aliens; it hits all of us. We all suffer if the U. S. loses the friendship and support of other nations in the worldwide fight against Communism; and we all share in the responsibility for helping victims of Nazi and Communist persecution.

Union members in this country have always been among the first to fight discrimination, to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate than us, and to guarantee "freedom and justice for all".

You can help in this important campaign to revise and improve our immigration law.

Here's what you can do:

- First, understand the issues involved, and explain them to others.
- Second, support your union and other organizations that are working to win a new and better law in Congress.

Let's all join together to make America once more a haven for the oppressed and persecuted. Let's strengthen the U. S. as a world stronghold of freedom and democracy by working for a fair and just immigration policy.

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What's wrong with

THE McCARRAN- WALTER LAW ?



What's wrong with the McCarran Act?

For more than 300 years, America has welcomed strangers from all lands, asking of them only that they abide by our laws and do their fair share in building our nation. The stream of immigrants has flowed steadily to our shores during all those years — bringing the strength, skill, knowledge and love of democracy and freedom that have made ours the greatest country in the world.

But in 1952, Congress enacted a law that tears down America's "welcome" sign and substitutes for it a big "keep out" — a law that is unfair and discriminatory; a law that may lose us the friends we desperately need throughout the free world. It is called the McCarran-Walter Act.

What is the McCarran-Walter Act?

It's a big law, covering lots of ground. The Act takes up 120 pages, has 407 sections, and embodies all the laws on immigration and naturalization that have been passed since 1917 — plus a lot of new material.

There has been a crying need for a long time for a new and decent immigration law. The old laws were unfair; they discriminated against would-be immigrants on the basis of their race and national origin; they contained many unnecessary restrictions and quite a few loopholes; and finally, they left too much authority in the hands of individual government officials.

The McCarran-Walter Act was supposed to take care of all these faults, and bring our immigration policy up to date. True, it *did* combine many laws and regulations into one over-all bill; it allowed Japanese-Americans to become citizens; and it improved some minor procedures. But — most of the

bad features of the old laws are still found in the new law — and more bad features have been added!

What a good immigration law should do

- It should deal fairly and justly with all immigrants, regardless of their race, creed, color or national origin.
- It should provide special relief in emergencies, to help those who are able to escape from Iron Curtain countries, as well as refugees and displaced persons of World War II.
- It should help — not hinder — our dealings with other nations, and aid us in the fight against Communism.
- It should keep out subversives: Nazis and fascists as well as Communists.
- It should adjust immigration quotas to the number that we can actually absorb.

What the McCarran-Walter Act does

- It makes second-class citizens of naturalized Americans. Their citizenship can be revoked, and they can be deported for reasons that would not affect native-born citizens in any way.
- It discriminates on the basis of nationality. By setting different national quotas it favors immigrants from Northern and Western Europe as against those from Eastern and Southern Europe and other parts of the world.
- It discriminates on the basis of race and color. A quota of 100 immigrants yearly has been set for each country in the Asian-Pacific area — and this small quota covers not only natives of those countries, but even their descendants in Europe and elsewhere.
- It establishes new and unfair reasons

for keeping out immigrants. For instance, a person convicted of a crime by a totalitarian court can be kept out on the basis of his "criminal record". Thus, in the words of CIO President Walter Reuther, "workers who protest speedups behind the Iron Curtain, who sabotage Red war production, who organize free trade unions such as our own, are criminals in the lands under Red domination. If caught in these acts they become criminals in the eyes of the U.S. and are forever unable to come to our shores."

- It fails to screen out Nazis and fascists.

There are many more things wrong with the McCarran-Walter Act, but these are enough to give you the general pattern of this law. Instead of setting up effective, reasonable and fair safeguards on immigration, the Act provides discriminatory, unfair and unworkable restrictions.

How many immigrants per year?

The Act sets the limit at 154,000. Government officials and experts say the U. S. can absorb far more. They agree that we can readily take in 250,000 per year, which is less than one-sixth of one per cent of our population. The late AFL President William Green testified that admission of approximately 250,000 would not "seriously affect our employment or unemployment problem." The late CIO President Philip Murray agreed that there was "no basis in fact or reason for the fear that it would jeopardize the jobs of American citizens." As a matter of fact, increased immigration would help relieve the present shortage of agricultural and domestic workers, and would provide an additional source of manpower in case of a national emergency.